

we act upon when we return after the Thanksgiving work recess. We have a few other conference reports to clean up on that. We also have a very important bill to stimulate the economy, a reinsurance bill, the trade bill and others; but I could only say to the gentleman we are hoping that even as we are working through this recess period in our districts to have some of that work proceed during that time and be better able to move that work along.

So at this point I can only say we are all anxious, as I am sure the other body is, to complete that work as soon as possible. What can I say? I can say I would encourage all our Members to sing with great confidence "I'll be Home for Christmas," and maybe earlier.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I would further ask the gentleman, when we return on the 27th, will there be suspension bills that day?

Mr. ARMEY. Again, I thank the gentleman for inquiring.

Mr. Speaker, we will have a list of suspension bills. We are in the process of clearing them now; and Members will be advised of that, if not today, certainly by Monday next week in their offices.

ELECTION OF MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 292) and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOSSELLA). The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 292

Resolved, That the following named Members, be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Government Reform: Mr. LYNCH of Massachusetts, to rank after Ms. WATSON of California.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONSIDERING MEMBER AS PRIMARY SPONSOR OF H.R. 2815

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered as the primary sponsor of H.R. 2815, a bill originally introduced by Representative SCARBOROUGH of Florida, for the purpose of adding co-sponsors and requesting reprintings under clause 7 of rule XII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT COMPANY AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2001

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 1196) to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I do not intend to object, I ask the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) to explain his request.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, the purpose is so that the 7(a) program and the 504 program, it will reduce fees in both those programs effective on October of next year; but the overall bill is important because it continues the SBIC programs going.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC, November 14, 2001.

Hon. DONALD A. MANZULLO,
Chairman, Committee on Small Business, House
of Representatives, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Congress will soon pass H.R. 2500, Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002. As you know, under the terms of the Continuing Resolution, upon enactment of H.R. 2500 its provisions will immediately take effect. That enactment will have a significant impact upon the Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) participating securities program.

Under H.R. 2500, there is no subsidy budget authority available for the participating securities program. The Committee on Appropriations removed that funding in anticipation of legislation from the Committee on Small Business to enhance the fee structure of the participating securities program. Those legislative changes would result in a zero subsidy rate for the participating securities program. This legislation was part of the Administration's budget submission to the Congress and is supported by the SBIC industry. Unfortunately, the authorizing language has not yet passed the Congress.

Absent the authorizing language the Small Business Administration will be unable to make future commitments for participating securities leverage until the authorizing language is passed. I fear that such disruption will have a chilling effect upon private sector participation in the SBIC program. There are currently 30 participating securities license applicants awaiting approval backed by approximately \$600 million dollars in capital. This capital, enhanced by SBA's leverage, represents a significant potential investment in America's small businesses, an investment that could be negatively affected by the uncertainty of a suspension.

Mr. Chairman, the SBIC participating securities program has invested billions of dollars in small businesses and created thousands of jobs, and has the potential to create so many more. I urge you and your colleagues to work quickly to pass the requisite

legislation to raise the fee structure in the participating securities program by 37.6 basis points and prevent the suspension of the program. The SBA stands ready to work with you on this legislation and help keep this program working for small business.

Sincerely,

HECTOR V. BARRETO,
Administrator.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I rise in support of the amendment. Earlier this week, the Commerce, Justice and State bill sent to the President failed to provide any funding for the Small Business Investment Company program, which will force its complete shutdown.

The SBIC program has been a real partner in helping America's small businesses grow both in times of economic prosperity and in times of economic slowdown. SBICs have assisted small business owners by investing over \$15 billion in long-term debt and equity capital to more than 90,000 small businesses and by investing more than \$600 million to businesses in low- and moderate-income areas. The SBICs have given such Fortune 500 companies as Intel, Federal Express, AOL, and Staples the tools they need to succeed and to become today's industry leaders.

In an effort to keep the program operating, S. 1196 will increase the fees to make up for the lack of appropriated funds, but an increase in program fees will rule out the SBIC as an option for many small businesses across this country.

A way to ensure lending options for this Nation's small businesses is to adopt the amendment under consideration. The amendment will reduce the costs of the 7(a) program which will allow for greater access to capital that small businesses, especially start-ups and those in low-income areas, need to continue serving as the engine of this economy.

I urge its adoption.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1196, the Small Business Investment Company Amendments Act of 2001. This is a fairly straightforward bill—it will keep venture capital flowing to small businesses during this critical time in our nation's economic recovery. Right now, there are 30 participating securities license applicants awaiting approval of this bill, with \$600 million private equity capital at stake.

In 1958, Congress created the SBIC program to assist small business owners in locating investment capital. The problems are still the same as they were 40 years ago, which are magnified by the collapse of many "dot.coms," the general economic slowdown, and the tragic events of September 11th. However, with other sources of private venture capital drying up, the SBIC program is becoming more and more critically important.

Last year, SBIC financed 4,600 venture capital deals, investing \$5.6 billion in fast-growing small businesses. Since 1996, investing by SBIC-licensed firms accounted for about half of all venture capital deals made in the United States. Since its inception, the SBIC program has also returned \$700 million directly to the